

Dick Mauch was born in 1926 in Bassett, Nebraska where he grew up working in his family's businesses, a hardware store, lumberyard and implement dealership. As a youth, Dick was interested in flying. In 1944, during World War II, he graduated from high school, enlisted in the Navy and went to aviation school. After the war he attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and continued his passion for flying by acquiring a private plane.

In 1957, Dick bought a deer archery license for the challenge to hunt with a bow. That year he shot a mule deer buck with a 41#, 64", 1957 Bear Kodiak recurve. Dick became so interested in hunting with the bow, that he then began to sell archery tackle in the store in Bassett and became Bear Archery's largest dealer in the region. Dick was very active in the State archery organization of the era, the Nebraska Prairie Bowmen.

In 1959, Dick took a Wyoming Moose, with a 47#, 60" Bear Kodiak. He drew the only non-resident permit allotted that year for the Pinedale & Wind River area. Dick was hunting alone and got a tip from a cowboy looking for missing cattle regarding the general whereabouts of a moose. Dick found some fresh tracks and followed them up. He spotted moose antlers sticking above a downed log, stalked up unseen and caught the moose napping. Dick's moose was the first of this species to be measured and entered for the Pope & Young Club records. Later that year another bowman took a larger moose, so Dick's one time record was short lived.

In 1961 Dick visited Fred Bear at the Bear Archery Plant in Grayling, Michigan. Dick was making plans to hunt the now famous the Little Delta area in Alaska where Fred and Glenn St. Charles had hunted during the late 1950s. Dick soon became a Bear stockholder and went to work for Bear as a regional salesman with an 11-state territory around Nebraska. Dick helped with the development of several Bear Archery products and during the 1960s he did about everything imaginable in archery.

Dick hunted with Fred on several trips and hosted many trips for Fred and other Bear employees near Bassett for mule deer, whitetails, and turkeys. Dick hunted in Africa twice, in 1965 with Fred and in 1968 alone. He took numerous African game animals including two Cape Buffalo and a Leopard while using a variety of now very rare Bear recurves. In 1965, at Dick's suggestion, the 48" Bear Super Magnum was made. The first three produced, one with a Bubinga Riser, were made for Dick to take to Africa, where he used them and gave them all away. Today those are some of the bows he'd like to have back.

Dick was heavily involved with the Pope & Young Club for many years. He was Records Chairman from 1966 to 1972, Executive Secretary from 1968 to 1972, and organized the 1964, 1969 and 1972 Banquet & Awards Programs. He served on the Book Editorial Committee for the first edition of the record book, published in 1975.



*Dick Mauch, Nebraska's greatest archery treasure.*

Dick proposed to his lovely wife Carol while aloft in his plane. As he explained his logic, "that was so she couldn't get away." Later they were married in Fred Bear's office.

Dick said that he feels very fortunate to have been blessed to have had three of bowhunting's greatest mentors, Fred Bear, K.K. Knickerbocker and Glenn St. Charles. Dick is the last surviving member of the Bear Archery Company Stockholders. Dick is truly a grand gentleman and like many old bowhunters, has one interesting old bowhunting story after another, and another and another.

On March 5, 2011, Dick received the Bowhunter of the Year Award from the Nebraska Bowhunters Association. On the same evening, he was honored as the second inductee into the Nebraska Archery & Bowhunting Hall of Fame. Dick's inspiring acceptance speech is unequalled in archery's annals. He said he hasn't hunted in a few years because of shoulder problems, but promised to dig out his first Bear recurve from 1957 and to use it for hunting this fall.

The following week, on March 12, Dick had the distinction to become Nebraska's first bowman to be granted Honorary Membership in the Nebraska Traditional Archers.

Congratulations Dick, on many well deserved awards and the very best of luck to you this fall on your hunts with your original, 1957 Bear Kodiak recurve.